

Drexel Neal Named as KLEMF Executive Director



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Drexel Neal is taking the reins as the Kentucky Law Enforcement Memorial Foundation executive director, replacing Horace Johnson. Neal is a retired Lexington Division of Police commander with nearly 44 years of experience working in and for the criminal justice system.

He began his law enforcement career with LDP in 1969, retiring as assistant chief and commander of the Bureau of Internal Affairs in 1998. From 1999 to 2004 he served as director of the Division of Adult Probation, which later became the Division of Community Corrections.

In 2005, he joined the Kentucky Community Preparedness Program, a homeland security grant initiative administered by the Department of Criminal Justice Training. He served as the KCPP executive director until 2007. From there, Neal was named the section supervisor of DOCJT's Office of Staff Services and Planning, which oversees the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies accreditation standards and policies for the academy.

Neal also has served as a member of several Kentucky and national law enforcement associations and boards. He holds bachelor and master's degrees from Eastern Kentucky University in criminal justice administration.

"I am excited for the opportunity to serve with a foundation that honors the lives and service of Kentucky's officers by giving back to the police community in such necessary and supportive ways," Neal said. "In recent years, Horace helped the foundation succeed in finding new avenues to garner support, and I can't wait to dive in and continue growing the foundation to better serve the brave men and women who serve Kentucky's communities every day."

In his time with the foundation, Johnson successfully marketed the foundation and extended the sale of KLEMF license plates, which is the largest contributor to the fund. Through face-to-face visits, presentations and ceremonies across the state, Johnson helped fellow officers and the citizens of the commonwealth better understand the unique and necessary role the foundation plays in supporting Kentucky's law enforcement personnel and their families.

As Neal steps in to take the reins as KLEMF executive director, he will continue the thrust to promote the foundation and its many benefits to the police community.

